

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge the indication of the allowability of the subject matter of Claims 22-40 (all claims of record), as set forth in item 8 on page 4 of the Office Action. In particular, the latter claims would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the formal grounds of objection and rejection, as set forth in items 5 and 7 of the Office Action. For the reasons set forth hereinafter, Applicants respectfully submit, therefore, that all claims of record in this application are now allowable.

Applicants acknowledge that the outstanding Office Action, dated October 28, 2008, has been made final. Nevertheless, Applicants respectfully submit that the foregoing amendments do not raise a new issue or require further search. Rather, they are responsive to the formal grounds of objection and rejection, and do not change the scope of the claims.

In response to the objection to the specification, Applicants have amended the specification on page 1, the first paragraph, eliminating the reference to the introductory portion of Claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of objection is respectfully requested.

A new Abstract has also been provided, as required.

Claims 22, 36-38 and 40 have been objected to due to certain informalities identified in item 5 of the Office Action. In response to this ground of objection, Applicants have made those changes suggested by the Examiner at page 3 of the Office Action.

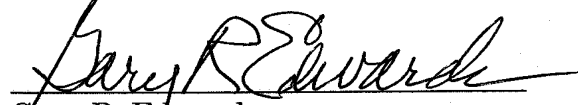
Claims 22-40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention, based on certain formal issues identified in item 7 on pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action. In response to this ground of rejection, Applicants have amended the claims in a manner which addresses and is believed to resolve each of the cited formal issues. In particular, the amendments which have been made include the substance of the revisions suggested by the Examiner in a telephone conversation on October 21, 2008. In addition, Applicants have also clarified the antecedent basis for "said planetary gearing" at Claim 22, lines 12-13; "said auxiliary electrical power drive" in Claim 31 at lines 4-5; "said steering gear" in Claim 36, line 3; "said planetary gearing" in Claim 22, line 7; and "said planetary gear train" in Claim 39, line 2. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 22-40 are now clear and definite.

In light of the foregoing remarks, this application should be in consideration for allowance, and early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding this response or the application

in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket # 103020.60606US).

Respectfully submitted,



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